

FOGLAND BEACH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes 13 February 2008

Members present: T. Ramotowski (Chairman, Conservation Commission), M. Van Hof (Open Space Commission), J. Cook (Recreation Commission), S. Berlucchi (Director of Public Works), D. Merriman (Neighborhood Representative) and G. Steckman (Town Administrator).

Also present: R. Martin.

Chairman Ramotowski called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM at the Tiverton Community Center, 346 Judson Street.

I. Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

II. Administrative Matters

• Approval of Minutes

Mr. Cook made a motion to approve as submitted the minutes of the Committee's 10 October 2007 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Van Hof.

VOTE: The motion was approved 6-0.

Mr. Steckman made a motion to approve as submitted the minutes of the Committee's 12 December 2008 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Van Hof.

Mr. Merriman stated that the minutes should reflect that the Williamsons for the Fogland neighborhood also attended the meeting.

VOTE: The motion was approved 5-0-1 with the change suggested by Mr. Merriman (Mr. Cook abstained).

• Miscellaneous Correspondence

There was no miscellaneous correspondence.

III Committee Member Reports

• Town Administrator

Mr. Steckman reported that he would be leaving his position as Town Administrator at the end of the month. He thanked the Committee members for serving on the Committee and wished them the best of luck in the coming year. The interim Town Administrator will be Mr. James Gonzalo, the current Town Treasurer.

Mr. Steckman introduced Mr. Berlucchi, the Town's new Director of Public Works.

Mr. Steckman stated that 2008 would be a very lean budget year for the Town, because a significant increase in bonding costs needed to be worked into the budget.

Mr. Merriman asked if the Town Solicitor had issued a legal opinion about camping at Fogland. Mr. Steckman stated that nothing had yet been received in writing on this issue, but the current Town Solicitor, Atty. Teitz, disagrees with the position of the former Town Solicitor. The need for a written opinion on this issue has been added to the list of things that are still outstanding from the Town Solicitor; the new Town Administrator will need to pursue it.

- **Director of Public Works**

Mr. Berlucchi stated that the Department of Public Works had received a letter of thanks from a resident who lives near the beach concerning the care with which the operation was conducted. Chairman Ramotowski stated that he had also heard positive comments regarding the recent road-clearing operations.

- **Recreation Commission**

There was no report.

- **Conservation Commission**

There was no report.

Mr. Cook noted that some of the boulders that line the end of the cul-de-sac road have sunk into the sand and need to be re-set or replaced.

Mr. Merriman noted that two signs from the cul-de-sac area were missing or knocked down. A sign is also missing from the area of the boulder barrier on the windsurfer beach.

Mr. Steckman stated that he would have to check to see if any money was available for those types of maintenance activities. Chairman Ramotowski noted that boulder movement/replacement would need both Town Council and CRMC approval.

- **Open Space Commission**

There was no report.

- **Harbor Commission**

There was no report.

- **Neighborhood Representative:**

Mr. Merriman stated that a more serious effort needed to be made to enforce Town regulations that govern the use of the beach. Real enforcement is needed, including the issuing of fines for people breaking the rules. Mr. Steckman stated that the municipal judge tends to waive the fines that are associated with the breaking of local ordinances. Mr. Van Hof stated that the Open Space Commission has had a similar problem – the Police Department has indicated that they can only enforce regulations that are posted on signs at the parks where fires, litter or vandalism are occurring. Mr. Merriman stated that a set of rules and regulations for the Town beaches needed to be kept in each police cruiser for reference purposes.

Mr. Cook noted that one of buoys in the mooring field in the north cove is much closer to the shore than all of the others, and asked if it was a legal mooring location. Chairman Ramotowski recommended that the question be forwarded to the Harbor Management Commission. Mr. Merriman stated that he believed the buoy in question belonged to the man who was trying to do some aqua culture off of Fogland. Mr. Steckman offered to forward this question to the Harbor Management Commission.

IV. Progress Towards Common Goals

- **Detailed Map/Survey of Town-Owned Property at Fogland**

- **Status of RFP for Fogland Survey/Map**

Chairman Ramotowski reported that the Committee was still awaiting comments from the Town Planner on the draft RFP.

- **Long-Term Management Plan for Fogland Beach**

Chairman Ramotowski noted that progress on this issue will occur once the survey/map has been produced.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the 13 February 2008 meeting of the Fogland Oversight Committee adjourned at 5:52 PM.

These minutes were prepared by T. Ramotowski.